

REMARKS

Claims 85, 90, 92 and 93 are pending in this application. Claims 81-84 and 91 have been cancelled. In the Office Action dated April 16, 2004, the Examiner took the following action: (1) rejected claims 81-85 and 90-93 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter; (2) rejected claims 81-85, 90 and 92 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,027,253 to Lauffer et al. ("Lauffer") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,068,708 to Newman ("Newman"); (3) rejected claims 85 and 90 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin ("IBM-87") in view of Newman; (4) rejected claims 85 and 93 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin ("IBM-85") in view of Newman; and (5) objected to claim 91 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but otherwise allowable.

The Examiner is thanked for his careful examination of the present application and for his indication of allowable subject matter. Applicants are therefore amending claims in the present application in order to conform with the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. It is understood, however, that the applicants do not agree with the Examiner's rejections based on the cited references, and are amending claims solely for the purpose of expediting the issuance of the allowable subject matter. Applicants therefore reserve the right to include any of the present claims, in non-amended form, in any continuation, divisional or continuation-in-part application.

Independent claim 85 has been amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 91. The language objected to by the Examiner in the preamble has been deleted. Claim 85 is now therefore in allowable form. Claims depending from claim 85 are also allowable based upon the allowable form of the base claim and further in view of the additional limitations present in the dependent claims. Dependent claim 91 has been cancelled.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable.
Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosures:

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